

Who's On OUR Side?

MIDTERM REPORT CARD: REP. JIM GERLACH

The AFL-CIO fights for America's working families. That comes with a responsibility to be a watchdog that keeps an eye on Congress and lets working families know who is on their side—and who is not—on key issues that affect us every day. As Congress has completed the first half of its term, we have reviewed the record of every senator and representative from Pennsylvania to see where they have stood on issues that matter to working families. Working families—with the facts in hand—have the power to take back the country and make sure we are represented by leaders who are fighting for our best interests—not special interests—every day.

	FOR WORKING FAMILIES	AGAINST WORKING FAMILIES
JOBS & WAGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported spending \$286 billion to modernize our nation's transportation infrastructure, creating more than 1 million jobs protected by Davis Bacon community wage standards [Vote #453, 7/29/05] Supported the reinstatement of Davis Bacon community wage standards for workers on federal construction projects in states affected by Hurricane Katrina, which President Bush suspended [Letter to President Bush, 9/22/05] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported a trade agreement that will send jobs overseas and worsen conditions for workers [CAFTA, Vote #443, 7/28/05] Blocked a vote to increase the minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour [Vote #365, 7/12/05] Supported giving Wal-Mart a sweetheart deal—after it violated child labor laws—that would weaken wage and hour protections [Vote #318, 6/24/05] Refused to support a bill that provides protections for workers to form unions [Employee Free Choice Act, HR 1696]
RETIREMENT SECURITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported protecting pension benefits for more than 120,000 United Airlines workers [Vote #309, 6/24/05] 	
HEALTH CARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposed slashing funds for Medicaid, which provides low-income families, children and seniors with health care [Vote #601, 11/18/05] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported a health care plan that would strip away critical consumer protections and raise premiums for the majority of small business employees [Vote #426, 7/26/05]
TAX FAIRNESS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported a budget that uses the Social Security trust fund surplus to pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans [Vote #149, 4/28/05] Voted for \$56 billion in tax cuts mostly for wealthy investors—even though the House earlier voted to cut \$50 billion from Medicaid, food stamps and student loans [Vote #621, 12/8/05]
EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposed cutting \$14.3 billion from federal student financial aid programs that help middle-class families afford to send students to college [Vote #601, 11/18/05] Opposed cutting \$784 million in funding for America's public schools [Vote #598, 11/17/05] 	